

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner
WILL THE VOTE COME OUT?

Attempts to forecast the result of the coming presidential election by reasoning from data of 1912 voting are seldom satisfactory. Conditions were confused in that year as to afford a very unreliable basis for present prediction about the future.

The Chicago Tribune, taking the starting point that Wilson is a minority president, that he received a trifle under 6,300,000 votes, that

Roosevelt and Taft together received 7,600,000 votes and that these latter may be combined this year, considers that Wilson must now hold his 1912 aggregate and capture approximately 700,000 votes from his opponents to win. This line of reasoning omits one essential element of the situation.

The vote cast in 1912 was very small. It totaled only 16.4 of the whole population of the country, in which respect it roughly corresponded to the vote in 1908. Our presidential vote totals fluctuate with no apparent rule, but the average proportion to population since the Civil war has been about 19 per cent. Suppose that percentage should come out this year.

It would mean a total vote around 19,000,000 or nearly 4,000,000 more than in 1912.

Clearly this increment of voters would entirely disarrange calculations based on the 1912 results. Mr. Wilson would not have to draw a single ballot from the column of his two opponents if he could get all of the new votes or even three quarters of them. By adding three of these four million to his 6,300,000 he would beat his opponent, roundly, although that opponent secured every one of the voters for Roosevelt and Taft and a million new votes on top of them.

The normal voting strength of the nation may come out this year and it may not. If it does, anticipatory guessing about the result is useless. If it does not, and the aggregate keeps down around the 1912 point, a prophet might do a creditable job, but who can say today what the feeling of the people is about the coming campaign? Are they deeply but quietly interested? Or are they apathetic?

Another plea is made for low priced graduation gowns. Now see here, why not let the girls dress up for "the thrill that comes once in a life time."

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VOTE 65 X

Kenneth McCormick

Present Deputy County Clerk

Candidate for Republican Nomination for County Clerk

Paid Adv.

Democratic Voters

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D. M. CLARK, Secretary.

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